

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 19, 2003 (Paper No. 10). Claims 1 to 13 are in the application, of which claims 1, 10 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, all claims have been amended so as to clarify that color component images are generated based on a rendering of data common to the respective color components. Withdrawal of the § 112 rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4 to 6, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,466,331 (Tai); and claims 2, 3, 7 to 9, 11 and 12 were rejected under § 103(a) over Tai in view of U.S. Patent 5,978,563 (Kawamoto). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The invention concerns image processing in which each of a plurality of rendering sections is arranged to generate a respective one of plural color component images. According to one feature of the invention, each rendering section generates its color component image on the basis of data common to the respective color components. Accordingly, and as set forth in the claims herein, each rendering section receives the common data and generates its respective color component image based on a rendering of the common data.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing, and in particular is not seen to disclose or to suggest a plurality of rendering sections arranged to

generate a respective one of plural color components, wherein each rendering section receives data common to the respective color components and renders the common data.

In entering the rejection over Tai, and over Tai in view of Kawamoto, the Office Action took the position that each of Tai's rendering sections 140 and 150 received data common to respective color components. Applicants respectfully disagree with this interpretation of Tai. In particular, as understood by Applicants, Tai's processor 140 receives only a black signal separated by a color separation processor 112, whereas processor 150 receives only a red signal. This is clearly described beginning at line 39 of Tai's column 5:

The processor 110 includes a color separation processor 112 that analyzes each color pixel and determines an 8-bit signal representing the pixel in black and another 8-bit signal representing the pixel in another color such as red. . . . Pixels selected to be rendered in black on a tri-state process are subject to rendering by processor 140 . . . while pixels selected to be rendered in red are subject to M levels rendering by processor 150 . . .

Thus, in Tai, each rendering section receives only data representing its specific color component and makes its rendering based on the received color component and no others. For example, although Tai's processor 140 receives a black signal, it does not receive both the black and red signal; likewise, Tai's processor 150 receives only a red signal and not both the black and red signal.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Tai does not disclose or suggest an arrangement in which each of plural rendering sections arranged to generate respective ones of plural color components receives data common to the respective color components and renders the common data.

Kawamoto has been reviewed, but is not seen to add anything to the above-noted deficiencies of Tai.

It is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections over Tai and Tai in view of Kawamoto.

No other matters being raised, it is believed the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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